	April		
	1998	1999	2000
Delhi	23.81	21.23	19.34
Mumbai	22.99	21.55	19.96
Chennai	24.99	22.73	21.14
Calcutta	25.58	23.70	23.04
Bangalore	26.32	25.00	23.70

Rent paid by Central Excise Department for Mumbai Office

249. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that the Central Excise Department pays more rent than Citi Bank located in the same Piramal building in Mumbai; and

if so, whether Government propose to enquire into the deal and fix responsibility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) However, as the rent reasonability certificate issued by the C.P.W.D. during the last revision of rent (later withdrawn) has been reported to be based on factually incorrect information, the matter is being enquired into by the C.B.I. The outcome of the enquiry is awaited. Further action will be taken after the findings of the enquiry arc known.

Decline in Rate of Savings

† 250. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that savings have been declining continuously for the past few years in the country;

if not, what was the rate of these savings during the year 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

whether it is also a fact that annual growth rate of 8-9% is not possible to be achieved due to decline in rate of savings; and

if so, the reasons for this continuous decline in the rate of savings?

† Ongional notice of the question was received in Hindi.